



## Pretty and Practical Purse

**Materials needed:** For double strand purses: About 400 yards of worsted weight yarn for the body and 100 yards worsted weight yarn for the trim. About 140 yards of novelty yarn for the body.

For single strand purses: Half of the above.

Size 13 – 16” circular needles

4 place markers (1 in one color (color 1), 3 in another color (color 2)).

Size 11 – double pointed needles.

Note on body, trim and novelty yarns: The pattern is written for body and trim colored yarn. The trim color is used for the bottom, I-cording trim at top and bottom and for both I-cords used for the handles and closure. The body color is used for the body. Both yarns must be 100% wool. Novelty yarn can be introduced wherever you think would be fun. Be as creative as you choose.

Warnings: 100% wool yarn must be used for the body and trim because it is the only type of yarn that felts. It is risky to use different brands of yarn together in the same purse. I use primarily Paton’s Classic Merino Wool or Galway or Cascade. Almost any novelty yarn that suits your fancy can be used along with the wool, not in place of it. Have fun!

**Purse Bottom:** Using a double or single strand of the trim color without any novelty yarn, cast on 18 stitches loosely (you’ll need to pick them up later). Knit 50 rows in Garter Stitch (knit every row). There should be 25 ridges. Begin picking up stitches around the outside of the rectangle bottom in the following order: 25 stitches along one side, 18 stitches along one end, 25 stitches along the other side and 18 stitches at the other end. Total 86 stitches

**Purse Body:** Knitting in the round, place 1<sup>st</sup> marker (color 1), K25, place 2<sup>nd</sup> marker (color 2), K18, place 3<sup>rd</sup> marker (color 2), K25, place 4<sup>th</sup> marker (color 2), K18. Cut trim color and add body color. Now, knit pattern in the following 2 rows, 20 times for a total of 41 rows including the knit row placing markers.

Row 1: Pass marker (color 1) to the right needle, Slip 1 stitch as if to purl, K24, pass marker (color 2), Slip 1 stitch, K17, pass marker (color 2), Slip 1 stitch, K24, pass marker (color 2), Slip 1 stitch, K17.

Row 2: Knit all stitches, passing markers from left to right needle as you go.

Row 42: Decrease for cord holes: Slip marker (color 1), K6, Bind Off 1 stitch on the right needle, K16, Bind Off 1 stitch on the right needle, K3, slip marker (color 2), K6, BO1 on rt. needle, K9, BO1 on rt. needle, K3, slip marker (color 2), K6, BO1 on rt. needle, K16, BO1 on rt. needle, K3, slip marker (color 2), K6, BO1 on rt. needle, K9, BO1 on rt. needle, K3.

Row 43: Increase for cord holes: Slip marker (color 1), K4, BYF (bring yarn forward between needles, making a stitch), K15, BYF, K4, slip marker (color 2), K4, BYF, K8 BYF, K4, slip marker (color 2), K4, BYF, K15, BYF, K4, slip marker (color 2), K4, BYF, K8, BYF, K4.

Knit one row even. Cut yarn; attach trim color, knit one row even.

**Begin I-Cord bind-off:** Remove marker (color 1). With trim color yarn, cast 2 stitches on left needle. Knit 1, slip 1, K1, PSSO (pass slipped stitch over knit stitch) and return the 2 stitches on the right needle to the left needle. Repeat, (K1, S1, K1, PSSO, return 2 stitches to left needle) until all stitches are cast off, removing markers as you go. The last 2 stitches, bind off, pull yarn through and attach 2 ends together neatly by sewing them together.

**I-Cording bottom of the bag:** Pick up 86 stitches around the bottom of the bag. 25 stitches on each long side and 18 on each end. Knit one round even with trim color with knit side facing body of the bag. K1, Slip 1, K1, PSSO, return 2 stitches to left needle. Repeat until all stitches are cast off. Bind off remaining 2 stitches, pull yarn through and sew 2 ends together neatly.

**Bag Handle:** Using trim yarn and 2 size 11 double pointed needles, leaving tale of 8", cast on 4 stitches. K4, slide to other end of needle, bring yarn behind and K4, slide to other end of needle, bring yarn behind and K4. Repeat until I-Cord measures 60". Cast off leaving tale of 8". With the finished bag's right side facing you, weave the I-Cord through the front I-Cord hole, then in and out of the rest of the holes all around the bag. Sew the I-Cord ends tighter securely.

**I-Cord Closure:** Make an 8" I-Cord of 3 stitches in the same manner as the handle leaving 9 inch tails at both ends to sew onto the bag. Find the center of the back of the bag. Using the tails of the I-Cord closure sew each end close to the other to the inside of the bag just under the I-Cord forming a 6" loop.

**Felting:** If you are knitting the purse for Purses for Progeria, please let me do the felting or let me show you how! Otherwise follow felting directions found in magazines, on other patterns, in instruction books, on-line, etc.

Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

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